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JORDAN: Both fedayeen and army troops have begun pulling out of Amman, but fighting again flared up in the north.

The army seems to have taken the lead in withdrawing from the capital. The three-man follow-up committee stated yesterday that army forces had moved to temporary positions five kilometers outside the city--a perimeter which approximates the location of the major intersections controlling access to the city. The fedayeen were said to have turned their weapons in to their command headquarters. According to press reports, however, cease-fire observers have admitted that it will be difficult to ensure total guerrilla withdrawal from the city; although some truckloads of fedayeen have been seen leaving Amman, other commandos claimed to have received no orders to pull out.

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The US Embassy in Amman has found a number of indications that the fedayeen are consolidating their areas of control rather than leaving. Commandos in the Ashrafiyyah area have set up an administrative organization, and are systematically checking houses for relief need, distributing food and water, and operating a bus service. Fedayeen at checkpoints are challenging vehicles, even of diplomatic personnel. The US ambassador believes that Amman is back to two separate sovereignties. He speculates that the fedayeen, having for two weeks absorbed the worst the Jordanian Army could

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throw at them, have emerged little worse than before, and may well regard the Cairo agreement as a kind of political victory.

The Israelis are taking a dim view of the provision of the agreement which would redeploy the fedayeen in positions "suitable for commando action." They read into this that the fedayeen will be given some kind of extraterritoriality in certain areas of Jordan, probably opposite the Beit Shean Valley, which the Israeli Army regards as Israel's "most sensitive area." Defense officials view such a development as "extremely serious," and are probably drawing up contingency plans.

Commando spokesmen yesterday morning accused the Jordanian Army of shelling both Irbid and Ramtha. According to press accounts, Jordanian tanks cut the main supply route from Syria in the course of the fighting. The three-man truce committee in Amman hastily dispatched observers to investigate; fedayeen spokesmen last night confirmed that the fighting ended after their arrival. Each side, predictably, blames the other for the violation of the cease-fire, which could have grown out of fedayeen harassment of army positions or the enthusiasm of a local army commander. [redacted]

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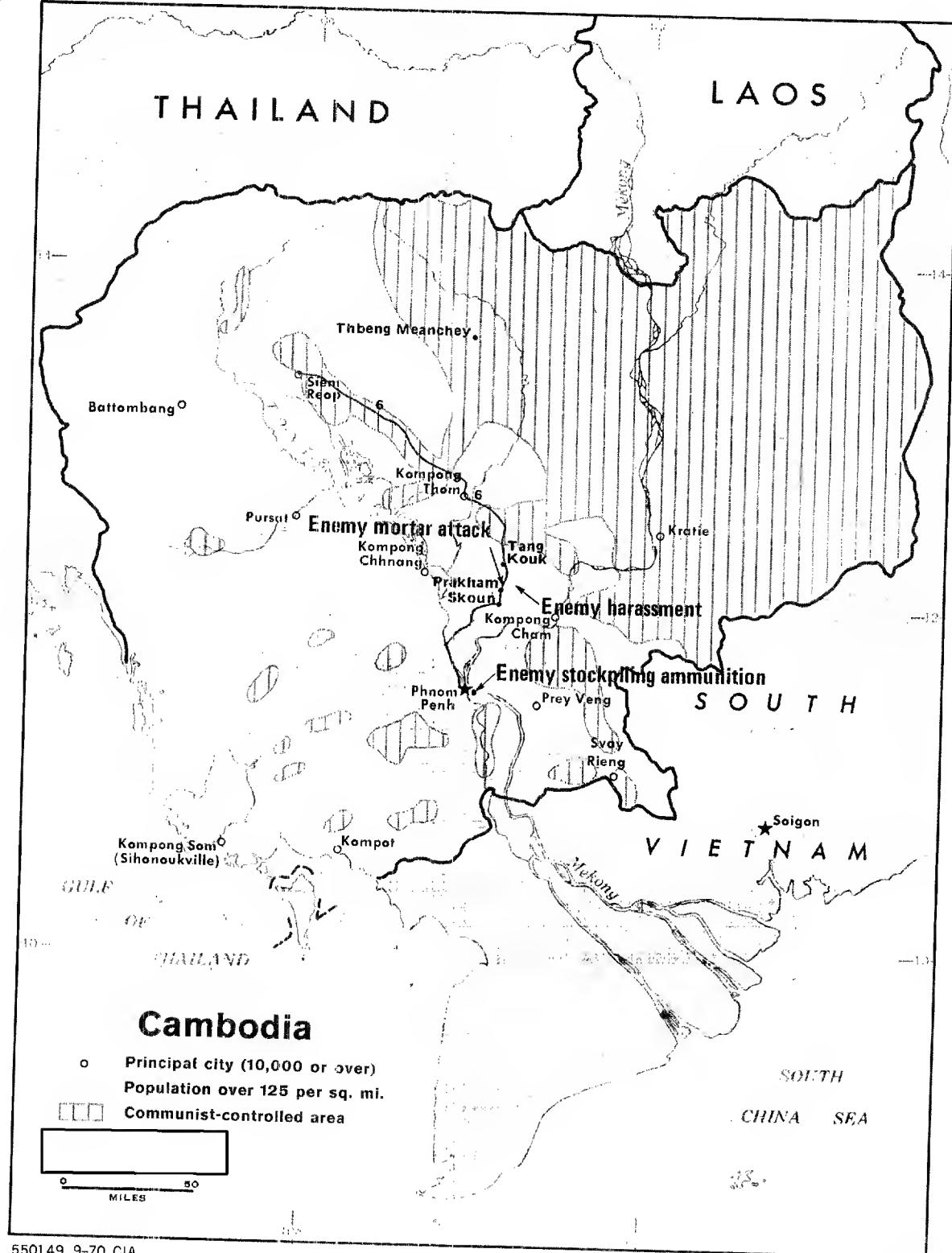
[redacted] some units of the Syrian Army are still stationed along the Syrian-Jordanian frontier. The forces include two tank brigades, an airborne battalion, and a para-military unit specializing in sabotage operations. Although these units are in a position to move into Jordan in the event of fresh fighting, their disposition is probably part of a contingency plan and does not necessarily imply a government decision to re-intervene. [redacted]

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Current Situation



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CAMBODIA: [The Communists continue to harass the government column on Route 6. A Cambodian Army battalion midway between Skoun and Prakham was hit by enemy mortar fire on 29 September, while a small Communist unit clashed with elements of three other battalions just southeast of Prakham. Few friendly casualties resulted, and air strikes halted the enemy actions. Government troops have not yet moved in force beyond Tang Kouk and continue to be pre-occupied with "pacification" operations near that village.]

[Military authorities in Phnom Penh are worried that the enemy will try to take advantage of the current religious holiday by staging some sort of attack near the capital. They claim that the Communists reportedly are moving ammunition into an area just three miles southeast of the city on the west bank of the Mekong. Although the enemy is capable of launching terrorist attacks on Phnom Penh, there are no reliable indications that any large-scale action against the city is imminent.]

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25X1, [REDACTED] Thbeng Meanchey, [REDACTED] is controlled by a 300-man enemy garrison. Well-equipped enemy troops infiltrating from Laos apparently use the town as a temporary way station en route to Kompong Thom and Siem Reap. Over half of the townspeople have fled Thbeng Meanchey since government troops abandoned it in late July, but the Communists still have recruited most of the town's remaining young males as a local defense force.]

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COMMUNIST CHINA: Peking's coverage of National Day celebrations yesterday reveals continued frustrations over persistent domestic political problems.

Echoing last year's themes, the sober joint People's Daily - Red Flag - Liberation Army Journal editorial called attention to the slow progress in reconstituting the shattered Chinese Communist Party apparatus as a viable authority and the difficulties in obtaining an effective performance from China's local government organs--the revolutionary committees. The editorial gave more than routine treatment to the need for competent local leadership, implying that both high-ranking civilian and military administrators are often out of step with Peking's policies and are having difficulty reconciling "the thousand and one things they have to do."

The extent of the regime's concern over such issues has also been evidenced in propaganda in recent weeks complaining of political infighting in revolutionary committees, strained civil-military relationships, deficiencies in the army's political performance, and resistance to the authority of party committees that are painstakingly being established at the local levels of administration.

The editorial offered no new blueprint for action in resolving the host of difficulties it outlined beyond calling on local leaders to do "a better job" in carrying out the periodic--and often vaguely worded--central instructions attributed to Mao Tse-tung. Moreover, the editorial failed to issue any broad policy guidelines and did not note significant progress toward convening the long-delayed National People's Congress. The congress is expected among other things to serve as a forum for presenting the long-anticipated fourth five-year economic plan; the editorial implied that the regime's long-term planning efforts are not firm.

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On foreign affairs, neither the editorial nor a brief speech by Premier Chou En-lai at the National Day reception broke any new ground. The editorial laid particular stress on the sins of "US imperialism" but also denounced US collusion with "Social imperialism"--the Soviet Union.

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INTERNATIONAL AVIATION: [The revised US draft resolution on aerial hijacking has a 50-50 chance of passage at today's meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council in Montreal.]

[Fourteen of the 27 council members must vote for adoption of the draft, which the US has revised to accommodate West German concern. The revisions slightly weaken prospects of international community action to boycott air services of countries harboring hijackers engaged in international blackmail. Ten council members appear certain to support the US initiative in its new form, with the UK and Argentina regarded as key states in the quest for additional votes. France appears reluctant to oppose the US draft openly and reportedly is seeking sufficient abstentions to deny the US a majority of council members.]

[Complicating prospects for the US draft are Canadian and Japanese alternatives that may be more palatable to a number of countries. Ottawa has offered a proposal that all bilateral air agreements be amended to cover hijack problems--a lengthy and imprecise process. Tokyo has not yet formally introduced its resolution, which also lacks immediacy and indicates a preference for bilateral action.]

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GUATEMALA: A sharp rise in terrorism seems designed to discredit the Arana government and to provoke a repressive response.

Terrorist incidents have occurred almost daily during the past two weeks. Assassinations of police officers and civilians, dozens of bombings, kidnapings, and other scattered acts of sabotage have raised questions about the President's intentions to follow through on his promise of maintaining law and order. Leftist student groups again are charging government complicity in some of the incidents, and university demonstrations protesting the "repression" are being planned.

The resumption of terrorism comes in the wake of dissension in the Cuban-oriented Rebel Armed Forces (FAR) over the stand-down on violence ordered by the leadership. It remains unclear whether the new round of terrorism is the work of splinter groups or whether the dissidents have convinced the FAR command to regain the initiative against the government. [redacted]

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The government has expressed its determination to fight the terrorists with legal methods and to that end has worked at upgrading the security forces. The minister of government believes, however, that in the face of rising terrorism, the government soon will have to react strongly or lose the support of civilian and military groups. He expects the FAR to attempt a "spectacular" murder of a prominent figure to increase the pressure on the administration. Congress is expected to pass a new emergency law expanding the President's power in the security field. [redacted]

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ARGENTINA: The General Labor Confederation has called a nationwide strike for 9 October as part of a campaign to force the government to change its economic policies and give labor a voice in the governing process.

The governing body of the confederation has planned a 24-hour "passive" strike for 9 October followed by a ten-hour "active" strike with street demonstrations on 22 October. The board subsequently will review the situation and may call for a 36-hour nationwide work stoppage in November.

It is highly unusual for the labor confederation to call two strikes in succession. This exceptionally strong action program probably was influenced by a recent directive to labor leaders from former dictator Juan Peron urging them to increase their opposition to the government.

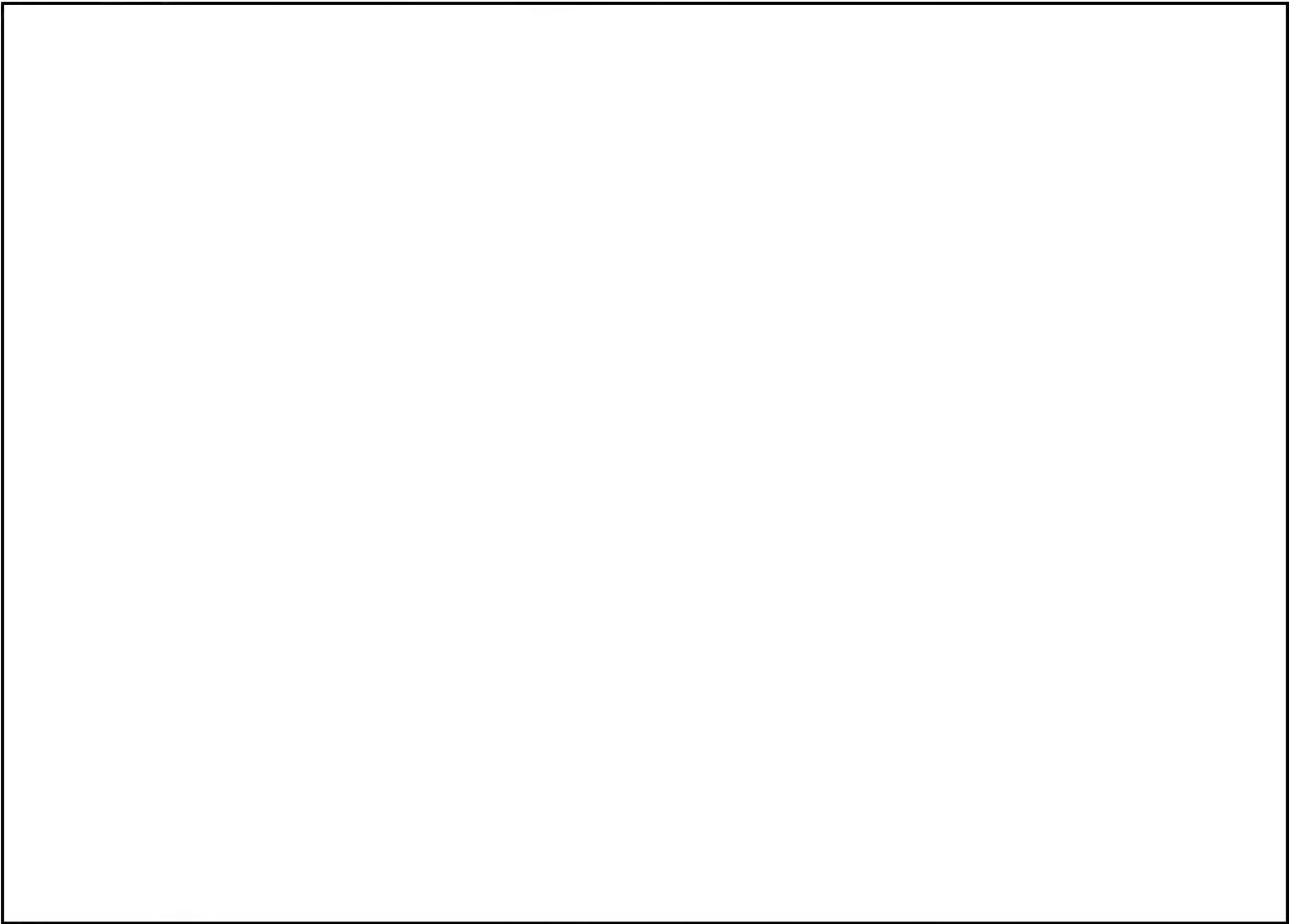
Given existing labor unrest in the provinces and the militancy of provincial labor leaders, the planned strikes could lead to a serious confrontation with the government, which might resort to repressive measures. The administration is more likely to offer some concessions, however, in an effort to give labor leaders a chance to save face and in order to buy time for itself. The announcement by President Levingston that elections will be held by 1975 may be a preliminary conciliatory move.

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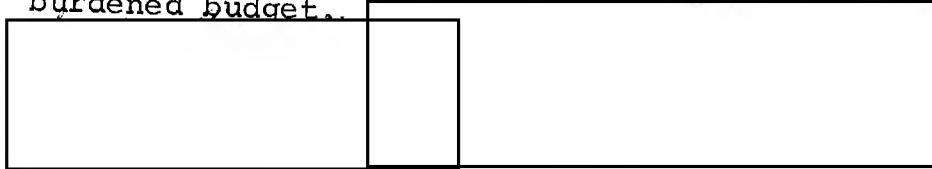
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NOTES

MALI: Bamako's economic recovery program has been dealt a blow by the interruption of rail freight transportation on the vital line from Senegal. Damage to a bridge by a train accident on 17 September has severed the country's sole rail link to the sea for an estimated 30 days, choking off the major artery for import of petroleum products and important foodstuffs. Alternate routes involving costly truck transportation through the Ivory Coast or to the distant railhead in Upper Volta would increase the strain on Mali's already overburdened budget.

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